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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Note verbale dated 22 July 1992 from the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to enclose herewith the official communiqué issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 21 July, transmitting the important views of the United Nations Human Rights Committee on the criminal activities of the two terrorist groups Sendero Luminoso ("Shining Path") and the Túpac Amaru revolutionary movement operating in Peru.

I should be grateful if you would have this communiqué distributed as a document of the General Assembly under item 98 of the provisional agenda.

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ANNEX

Official communiqué issued on 21 July 1992 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasizes the importance of the statement by the United Nations Human Rights Committee, which characterized the terrorist acts of the Sendero Luminoso ("Shining Path") and the Túpac Amaru revolutionary movement as genocide. The Committee also called for universal condemnation of those crimes.

The United Nations Human Rights Committee, meeting in Geneva, today made that important finding and emphasized that the savage violence of the two terrorist groups constituted genocide, since their actions were aimed not simply at instilling fear in the population but at killing them en masse. In the Committee's view, those terrorist groups must be forcefully punished for their genocidal acts under the law and in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

That Committee is an important organ of the international system for the protection of human rights, and is composed of 18 experts. Its purpose is to examine compliance with the obligations undertaken by States upon becoming parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also draws attention to the recent statement by the Latin American Association for Human Rights (ALDHU), which vehemently condemned the terrorist attack that occurred recently in the Miraflores district and which declared that terrorism had moved to a "higher plane of criminality, the target of its actions being the civilian population, with terror being employed for the purpose of paralysing the whole of society. The aim of subjugating the population through collective and indiscriminate crime constitutes one of the cruellest elements of barbarism, incompatible with democratic life and peaceful coexistence".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs roundly denounces, before Governments and international organizations, the criminal activities of the terrorist groups in Peru, establishing clearly that they are criminal associations having no justification whatsoever.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs points out that, with this blanket condemnation by the United Nations Human Rights Committee, the international community and its juridical organs have clearly established the criminal nature of these terrorist groups, which therefore cannot be described as groups that have taken up arms, insurgents, guerrillas or opposition groups, as they have been euphemistically defined.